THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) In his interactions during his visit to India, the European Union Trade Commissioner has discussed various WTO and multilateral trade issues, including opening up of Indian domestic markets.

(b) and (c) Multilateral trade issues, including opening up of domestic markets among WTO members are subject to negotiations. A coordinated and comprehensive view on such issues is taken after due consultation and consideration.

Sale of Karnataka tobacco without penalty on farmers

179. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY and pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received any proposal from Government of Karnataka requesting to accord approval for the sale of entire tobacco produced in Karnataka without imposing penalty on the farmers;

(b) whether Government would consider this proposal and approve it; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received from Govenment of Karnataka during 2004. However, a representation has been received from Government of Karnataka pressing for a decision regarding the fixation of crop size and regularization of unauthorised barns in the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Problems of coffee growers in Karnataka

180. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY and pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of long standing problem of coffee growers of Karnakata;